



AMERICAN WORKER

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

VOL. 23, NO. 36

Editorials

4,000,000 Get Jobs; Price Boosts Planned by President Roosevelt

CENTURY OF FACTORY ACTS CELEBRATION

British Labor Plans Tribute to Richard Oastler for His Work in Banning 5- and 6-Year-Old Children from Factories and Securing 10-Hour Day in 1833.

4,000,000 Get Jobs; Price Boosts Prevents Higher Living Standards

A. F. of L. Business Survey Claims Fair Practice Codes Reduce Minimum Wages, While Employers Slash Higher-Paid Unorganized Workers.

Age Limit for Federal Employees

The decision of the United States Civil Service Commission to reverse its decision barring stenographers and typists over 40 years of age from Government employment by refusing them permission to be examined for those occupations and raising the limit from 35 years was inevitable.

The justifiable wave of protest that went up against such a reactionary position was overwhelming.

The American Federation of Labor has persistently opposed the victimization of older workers by either private employers or the Government. The 1833 convention of the Federation did not mince words on this question. It said:

"There is no more tragic picture than that of a competent, able and well man or woman barred from employment for no other reason than that they have reached the age of 45 years, and in many cases only 35 years."

Older workers must live. Unless they are given an opportunity to earn a living, they must become a charge upon society. Places must be provided for them in both Governmental employment and private industry.

The order of the Civil Service Commission placing a ban on stenographers and typists over 40 years of age was distinctly antisocial and reactionary. The reversal of the order was absolutely necessary not only in the interest of justice to the older workers but also to restore in part the confidence which the people lost in the commission by reason of its proposed victimization.

Harriman's Brainstorm

Henry J. Harriman, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, one of the organizations which strenuously opposed that section of the National Recovery Act which guarantees the right of the workers to organize in bona fide trade unions without interference from employers, is reported in the press as having told the Cincinnati, Ohio, Chamber of Commerce that in his opinion the Recovery Act bars union shop agreements.

What a brainstorm!

Undoubtedly Mr. Harriman's belief is father to his desires. Reactionary and subversive antiunion employers of the Harriman type, whose well-known policy is to use the so-called law of supply and demand to beat down wages and lengthen hours, know that trade unions with union shop agreements resulting from collective bargaining are the only real protection working men and women have against the subversive labor policies of industrial dictators.

They would like to see trade unions outlawed by law in the United States just as Hitler has outlawed them by decree in Germany.

Of course there is not a paragraph or sentence in the National Recovery Act that prohibits union shop agreements.

In fact it is likely that many who opposed the labor section were animated by the desire to encourage collective bargaining and thus enable the workers to participate by bona fide unions in determining their wages and hours under the fair practice code set up under the Recovery Act.

As William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, told the 1833 convention of that organization: "The right to enter into an agreement providing for a closed union shop has been conceded and recognized by the courts in all their decisions."

That right is not vitiated in the slightest degree by the National Recovery Act, nor by any responsible interpreter of its constructive provisions.

The Eighteenth Amendment

On November 7 enough States voted for the repeal of the prohibition amendment to bring the amendment to the number required to strike the amendment from the Federal Constitution.

This decision of the voters is a complete justification of the American Federation of Labor's position on this question.

In the report of the American Federation of Labor, the Executive Committee of that organization, in discussing the progress made in ratification of the repeal amendment, said:

"From the inception of this legislation we have opposed the enactment of the Eighteenth Amendment and after its adoption maintained clearly that it was an unwarranted attempt in the enactment of organic law and would prove to be a failure. The experience under the operation of the Eighteenth Amendment has amply demonstrated to the people that the consistent attitude of the A. F. of L. is in opposition to the Eighteenth Amendment is about to be realized in its complete repeal."

The convention was right. The final verdict of the American people in repealing the Eighteenth Amendment reflects the persistent attitude which organized labor has carried on for years and again exemplifies the broad, constructive and correct views of Labor when expressed through its responsible organizations.

Congratulations, Mayor LaGuardia!

The American Federation of Labor congratulates former Representative Fiorello H. LaGuardia on his election to the office of Mayor of New York City.

Mr. LaGuardia was unjustly defeated for Congress last year by the Democratic landslide which engulfed the country. His record in the interests of the working men and women of the United States warranted his reelection.

In a statement regarding that record, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said:

"No member of Congress has served Labor more faithfully, and devotedly than Congressman LaGuardia."

His record is one hundred per cent favorable to Labor. He was the joint author of the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Bill which was enacted into law at the last session of Congress.

"As a recognized leader in the Congress of the United States, he exercised tremendous influence in behalf of Labor measures approved and supported by Labor and in opposition to legislation which Labor strenuously opposed."

"Regarding Congressman LaGuardia as an outstanding champion of Labor's rights and of Labor's legislative program in the Congress of the United States."

He deserves the support of Labor."

Mr. LaGuardia's election by an overwhelming majority to the position of chief executive of New York City is a deserved although belated vindication of the voters' faith in the sterling qualities which he manifested in the Congress of the United States as the genuine representative of the people.

Organized Labor congratulates you, Mayor LaGuardia, with the absolute knowledge that in every one of your administrative acts justice for those who toil will be uppermost in your mind.

Blatant Blanton

Representative Blanton of Texas has resumed his reactionary attacks on the living standards of Government employees.

A sample of his "argument" for lower pay for Federal workers is contained in a letter he wrote to Claude E. Babcock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. He said:

"If you will send me a list of your members who are dissatisfied with their Government pay and are willing to give up their positions and go to work from my own district I will gladly take each of them at that position, who will gladly take a job at a lower salary. You had better watch them closely."

That is to say, Representative Blanton proposes to put Government jobs at auction and sell them to the lowest bidder. This scheme in the present period of hard times and unemployment would reduce wages and salaries to a starvation level.

Blanton's proposal is nothing but blatant demagoguery. His trick can be turned against him. He draws the comfortable salary of \$8,500 a year. His record reveals that his major function is to detect measures which are de-

\$400,000,000 of Federal Funds Provided to Finance Work Projects Throughout the Nation—30-Hour Week and Prevailing Wage Rate Will Be Applied—Plan Will Remove from Ten to Fifteen Million Persons from Relief Rolls.

Washington.—President Roosevelt announced a broad expansion of the Federal relief program to provide jobs for 4,000,000 unemployed now on public relief rolls. Work will be provided on minor projects throughout the Nation, extending into every county.

It was estimated that jobs will be created for 4,000,000 by November 15, and for an additional 2,000,000 by the middle of December.

To achieve this objective, President Roosevelt directed the Federal Bureau of Civil Works Administration, with Harry L. Hopkins, Relief Administrator, to place the projects throughout the Nation. The projects will be financed by \$400,000,000 from the Federal Public Works Administration and by funds contributed by the States and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

In announcing the plan, the President said:

"It is designed to remove from relief all employable persons. Those who are unable to find work will be helped to increase in income over their former relief rolls."

The President laid down the principle of the Federal relief program, that the less employed on the relief projects, the more families will be given jobs.

It is estimated that work for the first 100,000 men will be completed by the end of the month.

Strong Unions Necessary to Protect Workers' Wages and Hours in Codes

Washington.—The absolute necessity of working men and women being organized in bona fide trade unions to protect wages, hours, and general work conditions is stressed in a report established by the Government under the National Recovery Act. The report, issued by the American Federation of Labor's National Labor Relations Board, states:

"Collective bargaining is the only way in which the workers can protect their wages and hours. It is the only way in which the workers can protect their wages and hours from the greed of industrial dictators."

In discussing the legal rights conferred upon the workers by the National Recovery Act, the report says:

"The workers have the right to organize in bona fide trade unions for the purpose of collective bargaining. This right is guaranteed by the National Recovery Act."

The report also states that the workers have the right to elect their representatives to the National Labor Relations Board. This right is guaranteed by the National Recovery Act.

The report also states that the workers have the right to strike. This right is guaranteed by the National Recovery Act.

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London, Eng.—A mass conference and demonstration of trade union and trades council representatives throughout Yorkshire is being arranged by the Yorkshire Federation of Trade Councils to celebrate the passing of the first comprehensive Factory Act in 1833.

The conference will be held in Bradford on Saturday, December 16, and will open with a mass conference in the morning.

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"When their debts are cleared, the new buying will be well into October. Opening of closed banks and guarantee of bank deposits will release their buying power."

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